

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02651 01 OF 02 050954Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /079 W
-----051001Z 064562 /12

P 041732Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1292

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 2651

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, AU

SUBJ: WALDHEIM PRESS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA: APRIL 4

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF UN
SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S STATEMENT, AND ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS ON THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AS HE WAS LEAVING
VIENNA ON APRIL 4, 1977:

BEGIN TEXT: I AM NOW LEAVING VIENNA FOR PARIS IN ORDER

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TO PRESIDE OVER THE AAC MEETING, WHICH IS A MEETING WITH
ALL THE HEADS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO COORDINATE
THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. FROM NOW ON
AMBASSADOR PEREZ DE CUELLAR WILL PRESIDE OVER THE
CYPRUS ALKS HERE IN VIENNA. THEY WILL LAST UNTIL
THURSDAY AND I HOPE THAT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE IN THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WE HAVEN'T DECIDED YET WHEN THE
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02651 01 OF 02 050954Z

TECHNICAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE TAKEN UP IN NICOSIA AS
ENVISAGED. MAYBE IN MAY, BUT THAT HAS TO BE DECIDED
DURING THE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS HERE IN VIENNA. WHEN
ANOTHER ROUND OF VIENNA TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE HAS TO
BE DECIDED BY THE INTERLOCUTORS IN NICOSIA. THAT IS
ALL I CAN TELL YOU FOR THE MOMENT.

1. HOW DO YOU APPRECIATE THE RESULTS OF THESE THREE DAYS OF TALKS?

A. AS I HAVE SAID OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE TALKS IS THE FACT THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME CONCRETE PROPOSALS WERE PUT FORWARD BY THE INTERLOCUTORS IN REGARD TO THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION AND IN REGARD TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM. THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE PRESENTED A MPAP WHICH INDICATES THEIR PROPOSALS ON THE FUTURE SETTLEMENT OF THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE PRESENTED SUGGESTIONS OR PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS. IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THERE ARE STILL CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GREEK CYPRIOT AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOT POSITION, BUT THIS IS NO SURPRISE. AS YOU REMEMBER I SAID AT THE BEGINNING THAT THIS WILL BE A LONG AND ARDUOUS PROCESS AND WE CANNOT EXPECT A QUICK SOLUTION. BUT I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WE HAVE NOW CONCRETE PROPOSALS WHICH CONSTITUTES IN MY OPINION AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT.

QM IF THE DESIRE OF THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES IS TO REACH A MUTUAL AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, WHY IS THAT INSTEAD OF MEETING ON HOME GROUND IN NICOSIA--AT THE SEAT OF THE ARGUMENT--THEY TRAVEL THOUSANDS OF MILES TO VIENNA, AND THEN WASTE TIME BY WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS?

A. I THINK IT IS A VERY NATURAL PROCESS AND IT IS DONE VERY OFTEN THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ARE HELD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 02651 01 OF 02 050954Z

OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WHERE THE DISPUTE IS TAKING PLACE. OF NEGOTIATIONS. I EVEN WARNED THAT NO IMMEDIATE RESULTS SHOULD BE EXPECTED, FOR THE PROBLEM CANNOT BE SOLVED IN A FEW DAYS AND EXACTLY THIS HAS HAPPENED. I WOULD NOT CALL IT A DEADLOCK, I THINK IT IS A QUESTION OF TRYING, NOW THAT CONCRETE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO OVERCOME THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AND ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION.

Q. MR. WALDHEIM, SUMMING UP YOUR FEELINGS, DO YOU STILL HAVE OPTIMISM THAT THESE TALKS WILL MAKE SOME PROGRESS?

A. AS I SAID AT THE BEGINNING AFTER MY ARRIVAL, THIS WILL BE A LONG AND ARDUOUS NEGOTIATING PROCESS. I THINK THAT THIS WAS A CORRECT STATEMENT. THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOW THAT WE HAVE CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN REGARD TO THE TERRITORY AND IN REGARD TO THE CONSTITUTION. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE STILL

CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES IN REGARD TO THESE PROPOSALS. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY ONE PARTY, BUT THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS--TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES, THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTINUED MEETINGS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. AND I WISH TO SAY RIGHT NOW THAT YOU SHOULD NOT EXPECT SOLUTION WILL BE REACHED BY THE END OF THIS ROUND OF MEETINGS ON THURSDAY. DEFINITELY NOT. BUT I HOPE THAT THE GROUND CAN BE LAID FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02651 02 OF 02 050944Z
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SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /079 W
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 2651

WHICH WILL FIRST TAKE PLACE IN NICOSIA ON TECHNICAL DETAILS. THEN ANOTHER INTERCOMMUNAL MEETING IS ENVISAGED, BUT THAT WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE INTERLOCUTORS IN NICOSIA.

Q. DID YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH OBSERVERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE HERE IN VIENNA?

A. I MAINTAINED THE CONTACT WITH THE INTERLOCUTORS AND OTHER PARTIES. THIS IS QUITE NATURAL IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITIONS. I HAD ALSO TALKS OVER THE WEEKEND WITH MY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR. PEREZ DE CUELLAR, WHO WILL PRESIDE OVER THE MEETINGS FROM TODAY ON. I HAVE TO SEE NOW HOW THINGS WILL GO. AT ANY RATE, I HAVE NOT FAILED TO DO EVERYTHING POS-

SIBLE IN ORDER TO HELP THE PARTIES.

QM DR. WALDHEIM, AFTER THE COURSE OF THESE TALKS, DO
YOUR STILL BELIEVE THAT THERE CAN BE A SETTLEMENT WITHIN
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02651 02 OF 02 050944Z

THE YEAR, AS YOU HAVE PREDICTED TWO MONTHS AGO?

A. I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE ACCURATE. I HAVE NOT
PREDICTED A SOLUTION. I HAVE SAID I WOULDN'T EXCLUDE
THE POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVEING A SOLUTION BEFORE THE END
OF THE YEAR. I STILL BELIEVE THAT THIS IS POSSIBLE,
IF THERE IS ENOUGH GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES TO USE THE
OPPORTUNITY THEY HAVE NOW TO REACH A POSITIVE CONCLUSION.

QM THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME QUESTIONS OVER WHAT THE
GUIDELINES ACTUALLY SAY. ONE OF THE ELEMENTS IN
SETTLING THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION, THE TURKS SAY,
AT ANY RATE, IS SECURITY, AND THERE IS NOTHING
MENTIONED IN THE PRINTED GUIDELINES THAT I HAVE SEEN.
IS THAT TURE? I WAS TOLD IT WAS IN THE UN RECORD?

A. WELL, THIS ASPECT WAS INDEED RAISED IN THE TALKS
DURING THE MEETING BETWEEN ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS AND
MR. DENKTASH IN MY PRESENCE.

Q. WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED?

A. WELL, NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN. IT WAS DISCUSSED
BUT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN. IT WAS EVIDENTLY A
MATTER FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

Q. WAS IT MENTIONED IN CRITERIA?

A. IT IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE CRITERIA FORMALLY BUT
IT WAS MENTIONED IN THE TALKS.

Q. AND IT WAS RECORDED? IT WAS PUT ON RECORD?

A. THIS INOT THE QUESTION. I THINK IT WAS THE FACT
THAT IT WAS MENTIONED, BUT IT IS NOT FORMALLY CONTAINED
IN THE FOUR PRINCIPLES.

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 02651 02 OF 02 050944Z

Q. THE UNDERSTANDING AFTER THE MEETING YOU HAD IN

NICOSIA WAS THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD NOT ONLY GIVE
CONCRETE PROPOSALS BUT ALSO CONSTRUCTIVE
PROPOSALS. DID THESE PROPOSALS COME UP TO YOUR EXPECTA-
TIONS AND HOPES?

A. OF COURSE WE NEED A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT AND A
POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH WERE AGREED
UPON ON THE 12TH OF FEBRUARY IN NICOSIA. BUT AGAIN
I HAVE TO SAY THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO SAY NOW WHETHER
THE TALKS WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IT IS JUST
PREMATURE. WE HAD ONLY THREE DAYS OF TALKS. WE HAVE
TO SEE HOW THIS DEVELOPS FURTHER. ONLY THEN CAN
WE SAY WHETHER THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WILL LEAD TO
A POSITIVE OUTCOME.

Q. MR. WALDHEIM, IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT WOULD BE A
REASONABLY POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THIS ROUND?

A. NOTHING MORE THAN A SERIOUS, MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS ON THE FOUR POINTS WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN
THE GUIDELINES WORKED OUT IN NICOSIA.

Q. SO WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR IN YOUR VIEW? WAS
THIS TO YOUR SATISFACTION OR DID YOU EXPECT SOMETHING
MORE?

A. I THINK THAT WE NEED MORE, BUT I REPEAT, WE HAD
ONLY 3 DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE
ONLY HALF WAY THROUGH. SO PLEASE, GIVE US
A LITTLE MORE TIME UNTIL THURSDAY, AND THEN WE WILL BE
ABLE TO GIVE YOU A COMPLETE ANSWER.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC?

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PAGE 04 VIENNA 02651 02 OF 02 050944Z

A. WELL, I WOULD SAY THAT THE SITUATION IS NOT EASY.

WE ARE STILL FACED WITH MANY COMPLICATIONS AND
PROBLEMS, BUT I STILL HOPE THAT THIS PROCESS WILL LEAD
TO A SOLUTION. END TEXT.MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, SECRETARY GENERAL, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENNA02651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770117-1309
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770489/aaaacztf.tel
Line Count: 269
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 225479aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2899764
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WALDHEIM PRESS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA: APRIL 4
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, AU, UN, (WALDHEIM, KURT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/225479aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009